

THE OMAHA BEE

DAILY (MORNING) - EVENING - SUNDAY

FOUNDED BY EDWARD ROSEWATER

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REMITTANCE

OFFICES

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APRIL CIRCULATION

Daily 67,265—Sunday 57,777

THE BEE'S SERVICE FLAG



Red Cross drivers will find a generous community awaiting them.

If the president turns a deaf ear to Prince Arthur's appeal the prospects of soldiers in France getting to vote are slim indeed.

Twilight base ball ought to be popular in Omaha. It will give a lot of folks a chance who are now kept busy till the game is over.

Von Hindenburg may not be dead, so far as actual expiration is concerned, but with regard to the war he is as defunct as Noah's neighbors.

Amateur strategists ought to realize that the battle is over in Omaha and not waste time in planning for things that already have happened.

For the benefit of one of our state contemporaries, The Bee has some pleasure in announcing that the city has two companies of home guards instead of none.

Let our new city commissioners remember that it is easier to abolish or merge needless jobs at the outset than to pry a chair-warmer loose from the job later.

Uncle Sam ought to establish a recruiting office in the city hall as an outlet for the surplus patriots so eager to serve the public who may fail to connect with the municipal pay roll.

Nebraska building and loan men in session at Beatrice are telling one another how little war has affected their prospects. If any one of our home-nurtured institutions can afford to sit back and look with complacency on the war, it is the building and loan associations, whose prosperity was founded solidly on conservative state laws long ago.

Mails by Air Line.

The postmaster general has commenced the delivery of mails between Washington and New York by airplane. Herein may be found occasion for contemplation. First impulse will be to congratulate the country on having advanced to the point suggested by the application of the flying machine to practical uses of peace. This will be tempered, however, by a consideration of its possibilities. Just now the postal service of the United States is feeling in all ways the effects of a combination of war and Burselon. Schedules have been disarranged, deliveries delayed and generally the morale of the postal personnel has been lowered by reason of policies adopted by the postmaster general. His notion of efficiency has taken the turn of going away with pneumatic tubes in the larger cities, after their usefulness has been thoroughly established, to return to transfer by trucks. Against this he will put the spectacular performance of transporting letter mail in limited quantities between the capital and the metropolis. From point to point some saving in time will be noted, but in New York the landing place for the airplanes is 10 miles from the postoffice, and from here the transfer must be made by truck. It is plain not a great deal of time will be gained by the transaction. While the airplane mail service may afford splendid material for Publicity Agent Creel, its value to the public at large is not yet clear.

Wilmhelm and Karl Divide the World.

As Napoleon and Alexander met at Tilsit to divide the world between them, fixing European boundaries and the status of reigning monarchs, so the Kaisers, Wilhelm and Karl, have just concluded the work of settling the fate of nations that have fallen under their control. Eight German kings have been set up to rule over submerged peoples who had been promised the right of self-determination. Accompanying this favor of "independence under German influence," which certainly has an ominous sound, the Lithuanians are adjured that it is their duty as well as privilege to come to the aid of Germany, and take up part of the Kaiser's war burden. Men and money, food and raiment, are required, and the Lithuanians will be looked to for some of these. No doubt, Estonia, Courland and other Russian provinces will have similar opportunity.

While this is going on in the ravaged provinces of Russia, the power of the German is being extended over Austria. In Bohemia Austrian authority has been directly supplanted by German, in the matter of food control, at least, while the Austrian army has practically been taken over as a pledge that Karl will not again offend Wilhelm by trying to negotiate separate peace. In Hungary Premier Wekerle is threatening to prorogue the Diet, as von Seydler did the Reichsrat, that all popular clamor may be stifled and arbitrary rule restored. Andraszy, Karolyi, Tisza and other Magyar leaders are in almost open revolt against this subserviency to the German influence at Vienna, and the Austrian empire is in as much danger from Hungary as it is from Bohemia.

Pangermanism has aroused a feeling among the nations of central Europe that would have been fatal to the Kaiser's ambitions four years ago, and may prove disastrous now. None who has felt the oppression of the German yoke for all these hundred years or longer is eager now to fight to continue its burdens. The treaty of Tilsit brought an end to Napoleon, and the present instance looks like a preface to the final records of the two Kaisers.

Just 30 Years Ago Today

The Rock Island hauled 117 cars of stock east, of which 78 cars were from the stock yards.

Potatoes are unusually cheap just at present and are on the market in

very large quantities, a carload having sold for 25 cents per bushel.

John M. Burk, Frank Glass and D. J. Evans have gone into the saloon business at this new and higher view.

Third ward residents want a sidewalk along Twenty-eighth street to the ball grounds and petitioned the council to that effect.

Mr. James Davis, wife and little daughter, have just returned from an extended trip to California.

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"SOLELY BY REASON OF SENIORITY."

Appropos of the assertion by the senator's personally owned and proxy conducted hyphenated organ that there is "something more than seniority" to account for Senator Hitchcock's promotion to the chairmanship of the foreign relations committee and its charge that every skeptic as to this is to be classed as a personal or political enemy, the diagnosis made by the New York World, concededly the most influential democratic newspaper in the country, may have some bearing. The World bluntly says:

"The fact is, of course, that Mr. Hitchcock gains this position solely by reason of seniority. He has been a member of that committee longer than any other democrat now living; he has survived physically and politically, and the senate being democratic, he acquires the position by the same rule as that in England which gives the elder son the family title and estate or in royal circles gives the first-born of a sovereign, the succession to the throne, without regard to merit."

"This is a shellback survival in the United States for which no defense can be found in democracy or good sense, but so far as party is concerned, it is probable that, if the issue could be sharply raised, not one republican or democrat in 10 in either house would vote to do away with it."

There you have it, in its most uncouth aspect. This position, so important in our war and peace diplomacy, goes "solely by reason of seniority" to the democrat who happens to have been serving longest on the committee—not to the senator who has served longer than all others, but to the democrat who has served longer than his colleagues of the same political faith—regardless of ability, serviceability, Americanism or pro-Germanism, the nearest analogy, according to the World, the succession of the heir apparent to the throne in an old world monarchy except that the seniority over there dates from birth and over here from the trade that landed him on the committee.

For a Government Gun Factory.

Arrangements have been made whereby the United States Steel corporation is to establish and fully equip for the government a gun factory that will equal if not surpass anything in the world. At present our country must buy its war weapons from private makers. Its armies at Springfield and Rock Island produce a sufficient quantity of rifles to meet all peace requirements, while the factories at Washington and Watervliet will fairly supply the naval forces with such guns as are needed when not at war. We could not, however, begin to equip our soldiers or fit our warships with weapons supplied from government factories when we faced the emergency of war. Plenty of arms are now being furnished through the private shops, but the demand for a government plant, at which all the needed guns of every size may be produced. This is now to be set up at Pittsburgh, in the center of the greatest steel producing region of the world, thus meeting the requirement that it be placed away from the seaboard, but falling somewhat short of the implication that it was to be established in "the central west." Pittsburgh may be "west" in the Broadway definition of the term, but it will be pretty hard to make Chicago think so.

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Gmaha's New Broom

York News-Times: Omaha needsn't feel so big over Mayor Smith. York has had a "Mayor Smith" for over a year and he is all right, too.

Scottsbluff Republican: With Omaha back into the republican ranks there is little doubt as to what the state will do this fall at the general election. Goodby, Jim, and goodby, democratic rule for Nebraska.

Fremont Tribune: The result of the city election in Omaha is something akin to the April election in Fremont, when the ins were almost unanimously ousted. Strauss notices the winds to be blowing republicanward this year.

Norfolk News: The elimination of the saloon has undoubtedly contributed to the result by removing one of the most powerful influences for evil in our municipal politics. Omaha has shown signs during the last few years of a rising standard of civic morality, and the election is probably a reflection of this new and higher view.

Lincoln Herald: Taking the Omaha city election as a straw to show the drift of the wind, some very decided political changes are on the slate for the coming election in Nebraska. The persecution of the farmers' and workers' organization cut no little figure in the Omaha landslide last Tuesday. Real Americans are strong for the square deal, free speech and free assembly at all times when indulged in by honest Americans. No more intimidation and persecution don't go. The democrat machines have evidently dug their own graves.

Washington Post: When it comes to a question of the amount of indemnities Germany has in mind, any chump can point to one price-fixing policy that is doomed to failure.

Minneapolis Journal: Notwithstanding the gain of ground in the west, the German mark shows great weakness. The mark sees the waste of German life and wealth and no adequate return.

Minneapolis Tribune: In upholding the draft law the United States supreme court simply declares that when Uncle Sam is slapped in the face he has a right to the free use of his arms to go after the slapper.

Louisville Courier-Journal: A thorough investigation of the Borglum charges is just as necessary if the charges are ill founded as it would be if they were well founded. The truth must be known to refute a slander or convict a traitor.

New York World: In the Spanish war, William McKinley was president. William McKinley Hurley, one of the first boys in New York state named for him in 1898, wins the Croix de Guerre in France. They grow up quickly, the babies.

Brooklyn Eagle: Our Treasury department buries things along. A ship is already off for Calcutta with 4,000,000 ounces of bar silver to help out England and save the gold that might have to be used to make good the balance of trade against her and on the side of India. Even Mr. Bryan would approve.

Kaiserism in German Language Papers Policy of Boosting the Fatherland and Backbiting the United States

By Frederick Boyd Stevenson in Brooklyn Eagle.

What has the German kaiser done for the German people of America? He has done nothing for them. He has done much against them.

If any class of people in the whole world has reason for hating the German kaiser, that class is the German people in the United States. Up to August, 1914, the Germans in America were respected, honored and loved. They were ranked among the first citizens. Their loyalty was without question. In 1861 they had proved their loyalty to the union. They had demonstrated that they stood for the principles on which the republic was founded. They and their fathers and their grandfathers, their mothers and their grandmothers had come from a Germany that was rotten with autocracy—a Germany that even then was over-run with and predominated by the blood of the supine, Alpine stocks, which were supporting and maintaining the Nordics and the real Neutons. Falling in the German revolution of 1848 to overthrow this barbarian element, many of the revolutionists came to America. The Schurz and the Sigels came here. They were the German people whom we learned to know and trust and love and call "brothers."

Then an amazing thing happened. The German kaiser picked a quarrel with the world. And let us not forget this main point: He was the same German kaiser in 1914 that he is in 1918, and was backed by the same Germany in 1914 that is backing him in 1918.

The German people in America could not offer the same excuse that has been offered for the German people in Germany; that they were under compulsion, that they were lied to by the German kaiser and the German government, that they had no newspapers wherein they could read the truth. No; these excuses could not be offered in this country. All Germans in America had access to the English language newspapers, the majority of which laid bare the crime of the German kaiser and the German government. They also had access to the German language newspapers published in the United States which also have told them the truth.

Did they? How many German language newspapers published in the United States told the truth about the criminal German kaiser and the criminal German government and the cringing criminal German people in Germany? Do you or anyone else know how many of these German language newspapers printed in this country denounced the crime of Germany? Do you or anyone else know how many of these German language newspapers defended the sinking of the Lusitania? Do any of you know how many of these German language newspapers denounced Germany and came out boldly and unequivocally for the United States and insisted that Germany should be beaten to a standstill after the United States declared war against Germany?

How many of them since April, 1917, have come out with unquestioned loyalty in editorial and news columns throbbing in every line with the red blood of manhood for the country that gave to them their being and made it possible for them to live?

How many of these German language newspapers were there in America which took that stand in 1917?

Now, something else has happened. It is not an amazing thing; it is a natural thing. It is the logical sequence following as a natural result a certain line of action. It is based on that very powerful attribute of psychology—which we oftentimes underestimate—known as human nature. It is the inward and to a certain point—invisible sign of a spiritual grace, that later on becomes an outward and glaring potentiality. It begins with the whispers of discontent of righteous force and justice.

An illustration is the tea and the sea incident in Boston Harbor. It is strictly American.

The German mind cannot grasp it. Thus the German language press in America toyed too long with American patience. The Germans flared their offensive German sheets in the face of Americans the day after 114 American men, women and children had gone down in a passenger ship, sunk by German murderers. They spread out their German sheets with insulting defiance before Americans in the street cars after every fresh outrage on Americans—deliberately planned and exultingly executed by the Germans in Germany. These Germans in America read in German; they talked in German; they thought in German. Today many are still reading in German, talking in German, thinking in German. Many of them have made themselves obnoxious to Americans in their public organizations and in their private clubs.

And who is responsible for this un-Americanism? The German language press of America. This press has fostered Germanism and not Americanism. It has brazenly flaunted its disloyal views before all America. It has without shame or gratitude incited—sometimes openly, sometimes insidiously—its readers to treason. It has persisted in this course on the assumption that the Americans were easy-going, careless and—possibly—of scant acumen. The German editors and the German writers in general of these German sheets know full well what would befall America or an Englishman who sat in a Berlin street car reading an English language newspaper. They know full well what would befall a Frenchman who sat in a Berlin street car and read a French language newspaper, or what would befall an Italian who read an Italian language newspaper. They know all that, but they laugh a Ger-

man laugh in their German-American sleeves at the "foolish Yankees."

But there is another laugh coming. It has begun with a snicker. When it is full head on it will be the last and best laugh.

The American casualty lists are beginning to come across. They are growing heavier day by day. Every day more German spies are being arrested. Every day there is coming home to us the terrible thought which no German logic can assuage that the whole civilized world is engaged in a death-to-death struggle with an inhuman monster that must be absolutely beaten to dust—wiped from off the face of the earth—if the decent men and the decent women on the earth hope to live and have their freedom.

Day by day we realize all that, and yet day by day we have flaunted in our faces newspapers printed in that language which is the spoken and the written medium of thought of a people who have proved that they are not fit to associate with the people of the civilized nations.

Day by day this eyesore is thrust in our faces. There are loyal Germans who have become citizens in this country. There are loyal Americans of German blood who were born in this country.

Is it not the duty of these loyal German-Americans who long ago should have dropped the prefix "German," and the duty of these American-born men and women with German blood in their veins to demand, with others who are demanding, that the German language feature of these newspapers in America be abandoned.

This spirit of America is rising. It is slow to arise. It generally remains seated for a long time. But when it does get up—when it stretches to its full length—and then gets into action, it is something with which no man need play "sixes and sevens."

From the Labor Viewpoint

F. A. Kennedy in Western Laborer.

"Nobody has to explain or apologize for Nebraska," says the World-Herald. No, but we have to do a lot of explaining and apologizing for its United States senators, all right, all right.

If the sacred precedent of the senate interferes with the winning of the war, cut out the war—is the decision of the cowardly United States senate. Our beloved Vaterland Hitchcock was confirmed as chairman of the foreign relations committee this week. How thankful we ought to be that La Follette was not in line for the position. The result would have been the same.

The World-Herald printed the word "Hun" in a heading again this week. My! but they are getting reckless in the building across the street.

Tom Reynolds made a beautiful race, topping the candidates among the losers and beating a lot of veterans to a sizzle. He received 10,960 votes. It is disappointing to class him as a loser, but I am not apologizing for his defeat. If the World-Herald had shown any gratitude to organized labor for the support it had given Hitchcock for 20 years, he might have been elected. He bit of gloat to comfort the union men is the fact that five of the new commissioners are republicans and they will not be interested in the re-election of Herr Von Hitchcock to the senate along about the tail-end of their administration. Tom Reynolds accepts his defeat like a good sport and will be on the job for labor and the government in war activities just the same as he has been since the government entered the war. Unlike the ungrateful World-Herald and its owner, he will be on the side of the government all the time.

Rev. Cyrus Townsend Brady presents in succinct form the case against the German people and that against the use of the German language in this country when he says:

"We are at war with the whole German people—not merely with the Hohenzollerns and the Junker class, but with every German. They are all tarred with the same stick. It is impossible to read the statements of returned or escaped prisoners, verification for which is ample, without arriving at the conclusion that the women and children are as bad as the men." When women of all classes make a practice of spitting upon helpless wounded prisoners and upon women and sick children who happen to use an English word in their hearing; when German Red Cross women refuse food to starving prisoners, in some cases pouring it upon the ground in their presence to tantalize them—when children are taught to throw stones at the prisoners and join in celebration of the sinking of the Lusitania, they show themselves on a level in spirit with the rapists, ravagers and persecutors in the German army. Therefore the only use we shall have for the German language will be to enable carefully selected persons to make the Germans understand what they must do to be saved after we have beaten them to the dust."

Dr. Brady holds that the German people are not to be trusted whether they live here or in Germany. That is true. It does not hold, however, against Americans who happen to have German blood in their veins, nor is it intended to. Americans are Americans; Germans are Germans. There can be no divided allegiance, no "fifty-fifty" of loyalty or of thought. There is no hyphen now. All who are not for America are against it.—New York Herald.

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